

NIFA in the News – Week of July 2, 2012

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In the News

Vilsack celebrates land grant research (American Agriculturist, 6/29) Learning about agricultural research that has implications for fighting cancer, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today visited The Ohio State University's Center for Advanced Functional Foods Research and Entrepreneurship, where researchers are studying the development of novel functional foods and components that offer impressive benefits to health. [Link](#)

Cooking with insects (Smithsonian Folklife Festival, 7/1) Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, stopped by the Foodways Test Kitchen of the *Campus and Community* program to share some of his knowledge regarding insects: specifically eating insects. Dr. Ramaswamy is an entomologist who has consumed a large variety of insects over the course of his career. [Link](#)

Future research funding begins to take shape (Wisconsin Ag Connection, 7/2) Several important bills that impact ag research are working their way through Congress. The Senate passed version of the 2012 Farm Bill includes authorizations for programs that are important to the wheat value chain. This includes authorizations for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the flagship competitive grant program at USDA, at \$700 million and fusarium head blight research, at \$10 million. [Link](#)

AgrAbility helps farmers continue working (Richmond Times Dispatch, 7/4) Barry Fitzgerald rides along the rows of blueberries on his farm in Charles City in a modified golf cart that sits low to the ground. Side panels steady him when he leans over to pick berries or pull weeds. An old work-related injury to his shoulder and a pinched nerve in his back made farm chores more difficult over time. He found help through AgrAbility Virginia, a program that helps farmers and others in agriculture-related occupations with disabilities. [Link](#)

Sneak Preview: NIFA aims to better communicate with its grantees (Thompson Funding Attractions Blog, 7/6) NIFA's Office of Grants and Financial Management, through the "Good to Great" initiative, aims to enhance communication, collaboration and cooperation with grantees and other business partners, and to

increase stakeholder outreach and education. “What we were hearing from grantees was that there was a one-way dialog; it was information being pushed out [by the agency] and not so much the agency listening to what the grantees needed,” Andrew Moses, manager at MorganFranklin Corp., a consulting firm working with NIFA, told attendees at a recent Federal Demonstration Partnership meeting. [Link](#)

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